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January 23, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS  
FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) FOR  
THE URBAN HIGH CRIME NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (UHCNI)  
PROGRAM (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize the District Attorney, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to accept grant funds from DOJ, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) for the UHCNI Program. The grant award amount of \$209,999 fully offsets program costs for the period of September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2004.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney, or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as Project Director for the UHCNI Program, and to sign and approve any revisions to the Grant Award Agreement that do not affect the net County cost of the Agreement.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded grant funding from OVC in the amount of \$209,999 for the period September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2004, to establish and implement a plan to improve victim services in the Watts Community. A broad, multidisciplinary coalition of agencies and organizations identified the following resources needed:

1. Victim advocates housed in a safe and non-threatening environment to reach underserved victims of crime in the Watts community. Martin Luther King/Charles Drew Medical Center donated office space for this program.
2. One part-time advocate, one full-time student worker and volunteers fluent in the Spanish language to improve outreach to the Latino community.
3. A Watts resident to serve as a community service liaison to evaluate community needs, identify barriers that prevent services from being received, and refer victims to available services.
4. A twenty-four hour telephone referral service to provide access to information on victim service agencies during evenings and weekends when most crimes occur.
5. A Community Resource Directory to provide a one source cross-agency referral to victims of crime in the Watts community.

Board authorization is required to accept the grant award for this period.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Acceptance of the grant funds supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4, Fiscal Responsibility by securing an available revenue source at the federal level. The program is part of the District Attorney's commitment to helping victims of crime by alleviating trauma and devastating effects of crime on the lives of victims and their families.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

This is the second year of grant funding for this program. The first year grant amount was \$60,000 in FY 2002-03. Due to late notification of the grant award, this Board Letter includes information on the overall program and requests Board approval to accept the first and second year grant awards.

The two-year grant award fully offsets the program cost of \$209,999 for the period of September 1, 2002, and ending August 31, 2004. This grant funding was not included in the department's 2003-04 budget; however, this new funding will offset Federal and State grant funding for other 2003-04 programs that have been decreased due to the State's budget situation.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs being absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS**

The OVC was created by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 to improve our nation's response to crime victims. Programs funded by the Crime Victims Fund are not derived from tax dollars, but have their basis from fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures collected from federal criminal offenders. The majority of funds available for distribution each year are distributed directly to the states in formula grants to help fund critical victim assistance services, and crime victim compensation program efforts.

The remaining discretionary funds support diverse training and technical assistance efforts, services for federal crime victims, demonstration programs, and continuation efforts for multiyear projects.

The goal of the UHCNI program is to mobilize local agencies and the Watts community to improve victim services, establish an inclusive neighborhood focused planning process, assess the needs and strengths of both the community and local victims of crime population, determine gaps in the current service delivery system for victims of crime, adopt a unified vision, determine achievable results, develop evaluation indicators for future measurement and assessment, and analyze justice services and other resources for victims and their families in order to reconfigure, expand and enhance, local services to victims of crime.

The program staffing consists of one Assistant Program Administrator at 5%, one Supervising Victim Service Representative at 20%, two Victim Service Representative IIs, one at 100% and the other at 50%, and one full time Student Professional Worker.

In the first year of the grant award, one focus group meeting was held and 67 surveys were conducted, of which, 51 were victim surveys and 16 were provider surveys. Nine monthly collaborative meetings were held from December 2002 through

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August 2003 with the Watts Initiative Advisory Committee Members. In addition, three community forums were held.

Statistical data is currently being captured for the following categories: 1) Number of new & continuing victims; 2) Type of services provided; 3) Crime types; 4) Types of training received & given; and 5) Presentations given, which will help the program identify achievable results and evaluation indicators.

A self-assessment tool is also being developed for the advisory committee for the specific purpose of determining its effectiveness and to identify areas of weaknesses and strengths as it relates to bringing needed services to the Watts community.

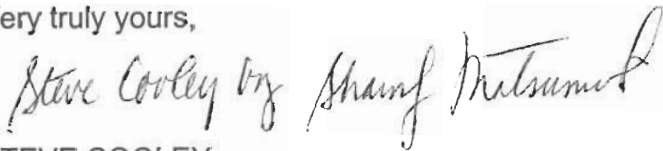
#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This program does not propose attorney staff augmentation. Therefore, the District Attorney's Office is not subject to the Board Motion of December 15, 1998, requiring clearance with the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Departments.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Following Board authorization to accept the grant award for this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two copies of the adopted Board letter to Ms. Rowena Asai, Contracts and Grants Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Asai at (213) 202-7668 or via email at [Rasai@da.co.la.ca.us](mailto:Rasai@da.co.la.ca.us).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Cooley by Shamf Mutsam".

STEVE COOLEY  
District Attorney

ra:mmb

Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

**Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office**  
**Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding \$100,000**

**Department:** District Attorney

**Grant Project Title and Description**

**Urban High Crime Neighborhood Initiative Program**

The goal of this program is to combine efforts of local agencies and the Watts community to improve victim services.

**Funding Agency**  
Office for Victims of Crime

**Program (Fed. Grant # /State Bill or Code #)**  
2002-VF-GX-K002

**Grant Acceptance Deadline**

**Total Amount of Grant Funding:** \$209,999

**County Match:** \$0

**Grant Period:** 9/1/02 – 8/31/04    **Begin Date:** September 1, 2002

**End Date:** August 31, 2004

**Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:** 4

**Full Time:** 1    **Part Time:** 3

**Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires**

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program? Yes ☒ No ☐

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? Yes ☒ No ☐

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires? Yes ☐ No ☒

If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services Yes ☐ No ☐

b). Identify other revenue sources Yes ☐ No ☐  
(Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant. Yes ☒ No ☐

**Impact of additional personnel on existing space:** None

**Other requirements not mentioned above:** None

**Department Head Signature**

*Steve Cooley by Sharon Matsumoto*

**Date**

*1/26/04*